

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS
DALLAS DIVISION

MUSTAFA AWAD,	§	
Plaintiff,	§	
	§	
v.	§	NO. 3:19-cv-344-L (BT)
	§	
TDCJ COURT OF APPEALS, ET AL.	§	
Defendants.	§	

**FINDINGS, CONCLUSIONS, AND RECOMMENDATION
OF THE UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE**

Plaintiff Mustafa Awad, a state prisoner proceeding *pro se*, filed a complaint under 42 U.S.C. § 1983. However, he failed to pay the filing fee, and he is barred from proceeding *in forma pauperis* by the three-strikes provision of 28 U.S.C. § 1915(g). Accordingly, this case should be dismissed.

I.

The “three-strikes” provision of the Prison Litigation Reform Act (PLRA), 28 U.S.C. § 1915(g), precludes a prisoner from bringing a civil action *in forma pauperis* if on three or more prior occasions, while confined as a prisoner, he filed civil actions or appeals that were dismissed as frivolous, malicious, or for failure to state a claim. *Jackson v. Johnson*, 475 F.3d 261, 265 (5th Cir. 2017). Section 1915(g) “comports with the PLRA’s effort ‘to filter out the bad claims filed by prisoners and facilitate consideration of the good.’” *Brown v. Meg*, 857 F.3d 287, 291 (5th Cir. 2017) (quoting *Coleman v. Tollefson*, ___ U.S. ___, 135 S. Ct. 1759)).

Plaintiff's current filing is barred by the three-strikes provision. He has filed at least three prisoner civil actions or appeals that were dismissed as frivolous, malicious, or for failure to state a claim upon which relief may be granted. *See Awad v. Doe*, No. 3:14-CV-4308-N-BH (N.D. Tex. Dec. 11, 2014); *Awad v. Administrative Captain at Darrington Unit, et al.*, No. G-08-191 (S.D. Tex. Nov. 28, 2008); *Awad v. Jacoby Hospital, et al.*, No.3:09-CV-2275-G (N.D. Tex. April 2, 2010); *Awad v. Jacoby Hospital*, No. 3:12-CV-0600-D (N.D. Tex. May 2, 2010).”), *rec. adopted*, No. 3:14-CV-4308-N-BH (N.D. Tex. Jan. 14, 2015).

Because Plaintiff has accrued three strikes, § 1915(g) precludes him from proceeding *in forma pauperis* in this action unless he alleges he is in “imminent danger of serious physical injury” at the time of filing the complaint. *See Banos v. O’Guin*, 144 F.3d 883, 884 (5th Cir. 1998) (per curiam). Plaintiff has made no allegation that he is in imminent danger of serious physical injury. He is therefore barred from proceeding *in forma pauperis* under § 1915(g).

II.

The Court recommends that this action be dismissed as barred by the three-strikes provision of 28 U.S.C. § 1915(g). Such dismissal is with prejudice to the refiling of an *in forma pauperis* complaint raising the same claims as presented here, but without prejudice to the refiling of this complaint with full payment of the \$400.00 filing fee.

Signed February 22, 2019.



REBECCA RUTHERFORD
UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE

**INSTRUCTIONS FOR SERVICE AND
NOTICE OF RIGHT TO APPEAL/OBJECT**

A copy of this report and recommendation shall be served on all parties in the manner provided by law. Any party who objects to any part of this report and recommendation must file specific written objections within 14 days after being served with a copy. *See* 28 U.S.C. § 636(b)(1); FED. R. CIV. P. 72(b). To be specific, an objection must identify the specific finding or recommendation to which objection is made, state the basis for the objection, and specify the place in the magistrate judge's report and recommendation where the disputed determination is found. An objection that merely incorporates by reference or refers to the briefing before the magistrate judge is not specific. Failure to file specific written objections will bar the aggrieved party from appealing the factual findings and legal conclusions of the magistrate judge that are accepted or adopted by the district court, except upon grounds of plain error. *See Douglass v. United Services Automobile Ass'n*, 79 F.3d 1415, 1417 (5th Cir. 1996), *modified by statute on other grounds*, 28 U.S.C. § 636(b)(1) (extending the time to file objections to 14 days).